

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Duxbury Clipper

## The O'Neil Farm — Why Now?

Submitted by CITIZENS TO SAVE THE FARM

**Q: Is buying the O'Neil Farm a new idea?**

**A:** No. The Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, other planners and far-sighted individuals have long been concerned about the future of the O'Neil Farm, 142 pristine acres on either side of Autumn Avenue. Home to 70 cows, it is the last remaining commercial dairy farm in our area and an important reminder of a vanishing way of life.

**Q: Why is the farm available now?**

**A:** Carl O'Neil is not the sole owner of the farm. He owns it together with other family members who would like to sell their shares. Because of his great affection for the farm, which has been worked by one or another of his ancestors for most of its 250 years, Carl hopes to keep the land intact and permanently devoted to agriculture. That vision offers the Town a rare opportunity to preserve a vital part of our heritage.

**Q: What is the plan for saving the farm?**

**A:** Carl O'Neil is working with The Wildlands Trust, a local nonprofit organization protecting over 3,800 acres of land in

Southeastern Massachusetts, on a project that will forever prohibit development of the land. The Trust is putting together a public/private partnership to raise \$4.3 million, buy the farm, restrict use of the land to agriculture and conservation, and place the farm in a Massachusetts Charitable Corporation. Carl will contribute \$1,000,000 to endow the Corporation, which will be responsible for managing the farm.

**Q: What is new about the O'Neil Farm project?**

**A:** The O'Neil Farm project represents a new concept in preservation: it's not just about saving buildings; it's not just about saving land. In addition to an 18th century farmhouse and 142 acres of land, this project will save a way of life by keeping the O'Neil Farm as a real, working farm, forever.

**Q: How can I learn more?**

**A:** Come see the farm and hear more about the project. Meet at the pasture gate on Autumn Avenue at 10 a.m. May 22. For more information, visit [www.savethefarm@wildlandstrust.org](http://www.savethefarm@wildlandstrust.org) or call 781 934-9018.

### Tinkertown Plans Progressive Dinner

Attention Residents of Tinkertown: Now that the weather is warming up, it's time to come out and reacquaint yourselves with your neighbors. What better way to get together than at the Tinkertown Progressive Barn Dinner on May 15? The evening will start at 6:30 with hors d'oeuvres at the Berall's, 254 Elm St., followed by dinner in the Heidenreich's barn, 285 Elm Street. The evening will wind up with dessert at the VanHaur's, 242 Elm Street. Don't miss out on this fun night. Please RSVP to Beth Conway at 934-5313 and let her know whether you will be bringing an appetizer, salad, entrée or dessert. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Online Auction Helps O'Neil Farm

An online silent auction to benefit the O'Neil Farm is being hosted by the Duxbury Shamrock 4-H Club May 9-June 1. Your participation will help ensure the O'Neil Farm will remain a working educational dairy farm. New items are being added daily to the site and can be viewed at [www.duxbid.com](http://www.duxbid.com).